

## 2 John

### Introduction

- A short post card sent to encourage discernment in expressions of love
- The Mighty Mississippi River is like our expression of love. It is Powerful, Plentiful, and Fruitful. But this massive river without control or boundaries is very harmful. Just as this river outside of its banks is dangerous and devastating, our love without truth and discernment can be devastating. We must keep love within its boundaries – two river banks – truth and discernment. Love is the hinge on which hospitality turns to open its doors, but just as a door has hinges, it also has a lock. We must learn how to love and put limits on our demonstration of that love.
- 2 John was written to give encourage limits when expressing hospitality where 3 John was written to warn about withholding hospitality

### I. Words of Love and Greeting (1-4)

**2 John 1:1-4** The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

#### A. A special lady

1. Who is this elect lady? (elect – chosen, selected, dear)
  - a) Some have concluded that he was writing to a church and its members.
  - b) It appears that he was writing to an actual lady (lady, house, sister) and her children.
  - c) He may have been writing to a lady and the church in her house
2. Who is the elder?
  - a) Almost certainly it is the apostle John.
  - b) He signs this postcard as the elder (presbuteros) much like I would conclude a note or email message with “Love, Pastor”

#### B. A fellow believer

1. The truth is that which brings them together in this relationship
2. The truth is what they have in common
3. She was well loved

**C. A mother**

1. She not only believes the truth but she has taught it to her children
2. Her children are also walking in the truth

**D. A hostess**

1. This lady was given to hospitality – she opened her home to many traveling preachers and teachers
2. This lady may have had the gift of mercy – always looking out for the needs of others
3. She may have been susceptible to being easily deceived or taken advantage of

**II. Words of Encouragement (5-6)**

**2 John 1:5-6** And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

**A.** She is reminded of the fact that love is the foundation for Christian living

**John 13:34-35** A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

**B.** She is reminded of the fact that love is connected with obedience to God's commandments

**John 14:15** If ye love me, keep my commandments.

**III. Words of Warning (7-11)**

**2 John 1:7-11** For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

**A.** Many deceivers

1. Recognize them as a:
  - a) Deceiver – misleading, seducing
  - b) Antichrist – against Christ
2. Regard them as a:
  - a) Threat – look out, watch out, keep your eyes open
    - (1) You are allowing them into your home
    - (2) You are listening to their conversation
    - (3) You are sitting down with them in fellowship
  - b) Thief – taking away your reward
    - (1) The danger of losing what you have
    - (2) Trying to do the right thing the wrong way or with the wrong people
- B. Test their doctrine
  1. Those who abandon the truth – hath not God
  2. Those who abide in the truth – hath the Father and the Son
- C. Danger at the Door – only Truth may Enter
  1. Refuse Hospitality – don't let them in your home
  2. Refute your handshake – don't bid them goodbye

#### IV. Words of Expectation (12-13)

**2 John 1:12-13** Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.

- A. What he expected in the future was to speak to her face to face
- B. He extended to her greetings from her nephews/nieces

#### Conclusion

- This short postcard gives us encouragement to continue demonstrating love and hospitality but also to use discernment is expressing that love
  - People will try to enter you home and have conversations and fellowship with you – be careful who you let in the door and who you let sit at your table.
  - Printed material will enter your home that is not Godly – books, magazines, literature
  - Programs on television, movies, internet will influence and teach your children
- We are to be a witness to unbelievers, but our love for sinners can go too far by tolerating sin, accepting their actions and justifying their actions

# To What Extent do I have Fellowship?

Demonstrating Love with Truth & Discernment

2 Epistle of John

Choose a circle of fellowship and a level of interaction with others

- Some people you will choose to exclude altogether – they are crazy
- Some people you will consider as a resource for collecting information
- Some people you will chat with or have a conversation with
- Some people you will put some confidence in their counsel
- Some people you will count on and continue to cooperate with them
- Some people you will cherish as a close friend

